

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

1 JUL 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR: Legislative Counsel, OGC

SUBJECT : H. R. 7981

REFERENCE : Request from Mr. Charles F. Ducander, 27 June 59 (attached)

1. Bill H. R. 7981 proposes the establishment of a Committee on Scientific and Technical Personnel to study the need for a permanent, comprehensive and current roster of scientific and technical personnel in the United States. It is proposed that one representative of this Committee be from the Agency.

2. There are four aspects of this proposal which are of interest to OSI, and which are commented on below:

a. Will H. R. 7981, if it results eventually in the establishment of such a roster, aid us in our evaluation of foreign scientific advances?

The answer is No, except in an indirect sense, which is discussed in c. below.

b. Would such a roster aid us by providing a better standard of comparison against which to base certain of our estimates?

The answer here is a definite Yes. I am currently discussing with the DD/I the proper procedure to follow in requesting the National Science Foundation to prepare annual studies of the scientific manpower of the United States. Our recent office submission on NIE 11-6-59 (Soviet Science and Technology), which included comparisons between US and USSR scientific manpower, ran into considerable difficulty because of the inadequacy of the information on U.S. scientific personnel. Although I believe that NSF now has a responsibility to maintain a national scientific roster, the effort is voluntary; is carried out through various national scientific societies; is handicapped by lack of funds; and the results have been decidedly unsatisfactory. A complete, up-to-date roster would be of considerable help in our manpower comparisons, although there would still exist the need for complete graduation data in the scientific field.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SUBJECT: H. R. 7981


c. Would the availability of information drawn from such a roster help us in:

- (1) obtaining scientific personnel for our own TO,
- (2) selecting more qualified consultants and contractors?

If the roster tied in scientific capabilities in specialized fields with geographic and language knowledge, it would be of some help in recruitment, particularly in filling out-of-the-ordinary vacancies. However, I believe that it would be of more help in locating suitable contractors and ad hoc consultants. With respect to the latter, an attempt was made last year to use the NSF roster to provide leads to U.S. scientists capable of giving us special evaluations. This attempt was almost a complete failure.

d. Should the Agency have a representative on the Committee?

I recommend against having such a representative. This problem is primarily an internal U.S. matter. However, we would be glad to advise the Committee on foreign efforts along this line, and would also like to present our views on the usefulness to intelligence of such a roster and the type of information which we believe it should contain.

for 
HERBERT SCOVILLE, JR.
Assistant Director
Scientific Intelligence

STAT

Attachment:
Ltr. fr. Ducander

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~